The Annual Message is, by its very nature, a retrospective of what has happened at The Bushnell over the past twelve months. It’s an opportunity to reflect on our successes and challenges, to celebrate our major milestones, and to honor those whose connections to The Bushnell have been transformative to the institution.

The Bushnell operates on a continuum; we can fix our fiscal year on a July to June calendar, but there is no twelve-month period that is untethered to the history that came before or unconcerned with years that are on the horizon. So as we acknowledge the 17-18 season in this report, it is built on the foundation of our nine previous decades, and it reflects the careful stewardship of our entire staff to plan for a secure future.

Our immediate future is tremendously exciting: *Hamilton*, perhaps the most anticipated Broadway production of all time (and certainly the last decade) will make its Connecticut premiere at The Bushnell in December. And this on the heels of a $4.7 million return engagement of Disney’s *The Lion King* this summer! Broadway is having a buzz-worthy renaissance, and there is a significant amount of compelling product in the pipeline sure to make its way to Hartford in the coming years – you’ll read more about it on page 15 of this report.

The next several years will see us reach a number of profound milestones that will define The Bushnell for the rest of the century. 2019 marks the 100th anniversary of the formation of the Horace Bushnell Memorial Hall Corporation, followed closely in 2020 by the 90th anniversary celebration of the opening of The Bushnell. By 2021, our neighborhood will have been significantly transformed by the demolition of the State Health Lab building on Clinton Street, along with the construction of two new parking facilities and new retail and residential buildings in the neighborhood. The State Office Building across Capitol Avenue is undergoing a top-to-bottom renovation; when
reopened it will be occupied by a number of constitutional offices, including the Attorney General’s.

Perhaps most importantly, in March of 2022, The Bushnell plans to retire its debt! There is much work to be done for us to get there, but with prudent leadership, the hard work of our staff and volunteers, and the continued generous support of our friends in the community and our corporate funders, the path is there for us to reach this momentous goal.

We have the obligation and the opportunity to be an anchor institution that shapes the future of Greater Hartford, and we continue to be a force for change in the community and the industry. We are eternally grateful for your support, which allowed us to fulfill this mission for the better part of the 20th century and continues to let us look, proudly and brightly, well into the 21st.
At the Annual Meeting on June 14, Board Chair Jay Benet presented Arnold Greenberg with The Bushnell Cornerstone Award, the Center’s highest honor. Trustees, Overseers, special guests, and family members celebrated Arnold’s contributions to The Bushnell – nearly four decades of service, commitment, and support in a festive luncheon on the Belding stage.

THE BUSHNELL CORNERSTONE AWARD

Arnold is a true cheerleader of the staff. He has high expectations of all of us and, although he never gives us a pass, he is always there as a partner in our work on behalf of The Bushnell. I am always grateful for his input and most of all, his sense of humor.

Elizabeth Casasnovas, Chief Development Officer

I met Arnold during my first days on the job nearly 30 years ago whereupon he immediately became a mentor to me and, soon thereafter, a great friend. To be mentored by Arnold is not only to receive the gifts of his tremendous intellect, wise counsel, and terrific sense of humor, but to be given a portion of his kind and generous heart as well.

Ellen Nattila, Senior Major and Planned Gifts Officer
Arnold is intellect, heart, wit and wisdom personified. He is equally passionate and compassionate. He casts an indelible spell of inspiration on all who encounter him. I know I will be forever grateful to him for the gift he has given me of the opportunity to work with him and to know him.

David Fay, President and CEO

It has been my great fortune to work with Arnold for many years. Quite simply, he makes everything about The Bushnell better. A life-long friend of our organization, Arnold gifts us with compelling leadership and an unwavering devotion to our mission. Our vitality today and our clear path into the future are a direct result of his efforts on our behalf.

Kat Niedmann, Senior Director, Governance and Executive Relations
ASSETS
Cash $7,680,016
Investments $23,083,057
Property & Equipment, Net $42,300,244
Receivables, Prepaid Expenses & Other Assets $4,880,980
Total Assets $77,944,297

LIABILITIES & NET ASSETS
Accounts Payable & Accrued Liabilities $3,094,140
Advanced Ticket Sales $11,071,942
Notes Payable $11,371,871
Total Liabilities $25,537,953

Unrestricted Net Assets $41,658,457
Net Assets with Donor Restrictions $10,747,887
Total Net Assets $52,406,344

Total Liabilities & Net Assets $77,944,297

REVENUE
Theater & Other Earned Revenue $14,177,780
Contributed Support $8,636,985
Investment Earnings $952,615
Total Revenue $23,767,380

EXPENSES
Performance Related Expenses $12,961,871
Building & Other $4,024,813
Operating Expenses
General & Administrative Expenses $2,417,690
Fundraising Costs $1,369,203
Total Expenses $20,773,577

Photos: The cast of School of Rock
The Bushnell’s financial position showed considerable progress during 2018, a trend that began six years ago when we committed to a course to stabilize and expand our financial future.

This year we hosted 230,000 guests in our halls at over 200 performances, grossing nearly $15 million in ticket sales and related revenues.

At the same time, you, our remarkably generous donors contributed nearly $9 million to the institution, enabling us to continue to offer impactful programming and support groundbreaking education and community initiatives. Your support also provides enhancement to our endowment that will ensure our ability to continue to serve the community for many years to come.

*Unaudited results
MARCH 3, 2018 AT THE BUSHNELL

was indeed Caliente as our more than 500 guests ate, drank, bid, danced, and partied the night away, all in support of our arts-in-education and committee impact programming. Not only did Ovations once again prove to be the party of the season, but it also exceeded all goals and expectations! With a record number of guests and dollars raised, Ovations 2018 has set the bar high as The Bushnell plans for next year. We remain, as always, deeply grateful to our sponsors and donors for their continued support of The Bushnell and look forward to celebrating with them again on Saturday, March 2 at Ovations 2019!
PHOTOS: Clockwise from top, left page: Ken and Kate McAvoy; Beth and Jack Pacheco and Jay and Jeanne Benet; Ovations Co-Chairs, Ally Cormier and Lindsay Ryan Jensen; Michael Stefano, Erin Macaluso, Ania and Markus Muhlhauser.

Clockwise from top, right page: Noreen Kidwai; Colleen and Mark Gilroy; Marilda Gándara, Ania Muhlhauser, Ally Cormier, Kathy Coss, Jennifer DiBella, Tara Costanzo, Betsy Udal; Rebecca and Jim Loree; Nancy Bernstein, Bonnie Malley and Donna Collins; Elizabeth Casasnovas and Greg Davis
EDUCATION HIGHLIGHTS

As the Education Department celebrated the 25th anniversary of the PARTNERS® program this past school year, we continued our partnerships with many schools throughout Greater Hartford and embarked on some new programming as well.

Tenth grade students from Pathways Academy of Technology and Design were led on an introductory backstage tour by Technical Director, Mike Sivo and Production Coordinator, Sam Burke. The students then attended a performance of *The Color Purple*. After writing about their observations, students returned to The Bushnell to work with our stagehands union, Local 84, for a hands-on workshop that included lighting, sound, and stage mechanics.

Another career focused program, “Behind the Curtain: The Business of the Theater,” our collaborative program with Junior Achievement, saw attendance double from the previous year.

Maurice Hines and John Manzari came to The Greater Hartford Academy of the Arts High School and worked with Musical Theater and Dance students in a Jazz and Tap Master Class. Mr. Hines enthralled the students about his journey and passion for dance.

The annual Ellen Jeanne Goldfarb Language Arts Festival showcased our student poets, musicians and dancers. Students from Asian Studies Academy, Renzulli Academy, and West Middle School read their original poems; the Noah Webster Jazzicians performed; and students from Renzulli Academy danced a Hip-Hop medley. The Greater Hartford Academy of the Arts Musical Theater students ended the show with a Motown celebration.
I have had the distinct privilege of working in the Education and Community Initiatives Department for the past 19 years. Every day is different and varied because the Education and Community Initiatives Department is responsible for so many programs: Talent Development, PARTNERS, Archives, Visual Arts, Theater Management and Training (both locally and internationally), Community Partnerships, the launch of a new dance project with Maurice Hines, Sensory Friendly Programming, and much more.

But, I think what ties all these programs together is the word “accomplishment.” I have been a first-hand witness to the accomplishments of thousands of children and young adults who have been able to pursue meaningful artistic projects because of the support of The Bushnell.

When I sit in a 3rd grade classroom on the first day of a poetry residency and watch reluctant writers say they don’t like poetry – and then by the end of the day, witness them getting up and reciting their wonderful, imaginative words – accomplishment!

When I listen to a bunch of teenagers try to sing as an ensemble for the first time – and then see them grace the Belding Theater stage with a harmony that belies their age – accomplishment!

When I watch a group of 5th and 6th graders come together for a hip-hop class, despite the fact that they have never danced before – and then watch them match steps and encourage each other on stage – accomplishment!

These are just a few examples of what I get to do every day. Working with accomplished and dedicated teaching artists and collaborating with amazing teachers who want to use the arts to help their students learn, it brings me such pride that my department makes that happen.

The arts elevate learning to a whole new level. Every person should have the opportunity to be exposed to the arts, at the very least, and then to follow their passions as far as they want. I am truly honored to make that happen on a daily basis.

Brenda Lopez
Director of School-Based Services and Talent Development
**THE YEAR ON STAGE**

**Farmington Bank and Travelers**

**BROADWAY SERIES**
- Finding Neverland
- School of Rock
- The Color Purple
- Something Rotten!
- The Bodyguard
- Love Never Dies – The Phantom Returns
- On Your Feet - The Emilio & Gloria Estefan Musical

**BROADWAY BONUS**
- A Christmas Story
- A Charlie Brown Christmas

**VOYA SERIES**
- Steve Martin and Martin Short: An Evening You Will Forget for the Rest of Your Life featuring The Steep Canyon Rangers and Jeff Babko
- The Wizard of Oz
- The Illusionists

United Technologies Corporation

**Encore Series**
- Les Misérables
- Stomp

People’s United Bank and Dominion

**BUSHNELL CHILDREN’S THEATRE**
- Miss Nelson is Missing
- Guess How Much I Love You & I Love My Little Storybook
- Warriors Don’t Cry
- How I Became a Pirate

In association with Young Audiences New York, The Bushnell presents the Literature to Life® stage presentation of The Giver by Lois Lowry

**SPECIAL EVENTS**
- An Evening with David Sedaris
- Chris Botti
- Jim Brickman: An Evening of Romance
- Keith Lockhart and the Boston Pops on Tour
- Ethan Bortnick - Live in Concert
- 18-19 Broadway Preview Starring Seth Rudetsky
- An Evening with Neil Gaiman*
- A Moderated Conversation with Former First Lady Michelle Obama*
- Russian Grand Ballet presents Swan Lake
- Warren Miller’s Line of Descent
- An Evening with Richard Dawkins
- 2018 Banff Mountain Film Festival World Tour
- Wait Wait Don’t Tell Me
- Bianca Del Rio - Blame it on Bianca
- Trixie Mattel
- An Evening with Travis Tritt

*Presented with CT Forum

**COMMUNITY EVENTS**
- Mostly Baroque Players
- Momma’s Boy
- The Bridal Showcase at The Bushnell
- Lite 100.5 WRCH’s 20th Annual Nite of Lite Laughter featuring Jay Leno
- Hartt School Presents Beethoven Nine and Schumann Piano Concerto
- National Conference for Community and Justice presents Concert for America
- 100 Men of Color
- Molusco Esta Apaga’o
- Salisbury Sinfonietta and CT Festival Chorus presents Reformation Unity Celebration Travelers Chorale
- The Hartford Chorale presents The Messiah
- Hartford Hospital’s Black and Red Gala featuring Idina Menzel
- Hot Chocolate Soul
- Festival of Laughs: Sommore, Bruce Bruce, Earthquake, George Wallace
- The Nutmeg Conservatory of the Arts presents The Nutcracker
- Hall of Fame Dance Competition
- UCONN School of Social Work Recognition Ceremony
- The 100 Women of Color Black Tie and Gala Awards 2018
- Francine Austin presents An Evening Of Philanthropy
- West Hartford Inter-Elementary Music Festival 2018
- Swing ‘n Sway
- Hot Chocolate Soul
- Bloomfield District Arts Festival presents Through the Decade
- Evjen Academy of Performing Arts Hall of Fame Dance Competition

**THE CONNECTICUT FORUM**
- An Evening with Supreme Court Justice Stephan Breyer
- Laughter Anyone? An evening with Comedians
- The State of Journalism & The News Chefs & the Art of Food

**ROBINSON + COLE**
- The Hip Hop Nutcracker with Guest MC Kurtis Blow
- Laurie Berkner Live! The Greatest Hits Solo Tour
- Breakfast with Santa
- The Bushnell Block Party
- Chris Perondi’s Stunt Dog Experience
- PJ Masks
I’ve discovered something a bit surprising about myself as I enter my senior years: I’m a bit of a sap when it comes to Broadway musicals. Since becoming The Bushnell’s Vice President of Programming in 2015, I’ve seen nearly every new show on Broadway (tough job, I know), and a surprising number have left me, as my Yiddish-speaking grandmother would say, verklempt. So here, in no particular order, are some of the recent shows I’ve seen that touched my heart and that will, I hope, do the same for you when they inevitably make their way onto The Bushnell’s Broadway Series in the seasons to come.

Dear Evan Hansen. Evan is a troubled teen who wears his heart on his sleeve and reveals his agonies to us through the Tony winning music by Benj Pasek and Justin Paul and some theatrical magic that immerses us in the world of social-media bullying. The Band’s Visit is a character-driven story about how people from vastly different cultures – in this case Israeli Jewish and Egyptian – can find common ground around shared interests. In this heartwarming story, music is the bridge.

Harry Potter and the Cursed Child. Attendees of this show are sworn to secrecy about what they’ve seen, so all I’ll say is that I was mesmerized by the stage magic that brought Hogwarts to life. I never got through the Harry Potter books or movies, but I had no problem following (and enjoying) this tale of the next generation.

Mean Girls. My guest for the evening was my son’s lovely fiancé, Katie, who grew up with the movie and remembers quoting its lines ad infinitum with her friends as a teen. She was delighted with the musical, saying it lived up to her lofty expectations. It’s also a delightful vehicle for Tina Fey’s brilliant comedic storytelling.

Jagged Little Pill. Finally, this gem of a show, which recently ran at The American Repertory Theater, has huge buzz as it gears up for its Broadway run sometime in the near future. The magnificently orchestrated music of Alanis Morissette serves as a gut-wrenching backdrop for a story about a family steeped in modern crises, from opioid addiction to sexual identity to date rape.

- Ric Waldman - Vice President of Programming and Marketing
The Bushnell’s presence continues to expand on all social media platforms, and one of our most popular uses of social is the Instagram Takeover, which we now utilize for almost every Broadway show that we present. A member of the cast will take over our Instagram feed for a day, giving their followers and ours a look into the life of a performer on tour, along with backstage photos that provide a unique and personal behind-the-scenes glimpse of our biggest productions. It’s an opportunity to engage fans in what we do in a fun, immediate way that strengthens the connection between The Bushnell and our patrons.

Followers as of August 2018:

FACEBOOK • 36,009
TWITTER • 7,501
INSTAGRAM • 3,065

#THEBUSHNELL • @THEBUSHNELL
Special thanks to our leadership and legacy donors, whose generous gifts play a significant role in sustaining The Bushnell’s mission, both now and for the future.

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Maxwell and Sally Belding
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The Bushnell gratefully remembers those who, through their estates, have provided legacy gifts this year.

Dorothy Clark Archibald
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Hugh M. Joseloff and Helen H. Joseloff Fund at the Hartford Foundation for Public Giving
The Seymore and Ann Newman Memorial Fund
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*Deceased
ONE FUNDER’S STORY

Travelers is committed to supporting its communities. Over the past decade, the company has contributed more than $200 million to initiatives and organizations dedicated to improving academic and career success, creating thriving neighborhoods and enhancing lives through arts and culture.

The company’s philanthropic priorities include the arts because of its ability to enrich lives and improve multicultural understanding. Through funding and employee volunteerism, Travelers supports organizations that incorporate the use of art to enhance learning, develop and present cultural and artistic traditions, and provide access to various forms of art to diverse audiences.

Travelers has been a partner of The Bushnell for over three decades. Since 2005, the company has provided more than $3.4 million to support The Bushnell’s various productions as well as its Broadway Series and education initiatives, which include PARTNERS, the Bushnell’s arts-in-education program that integrates arts activities and cultural experiences into academics, an initiative that aligns well with Travelers’ giving priorities. The program provides hands-on, in-classroom activities that seek to help improve language arts skills and increase intercultural development of students in grades pre-K through 12.

“The Bushnell is a vital contributor to the arts sector in Connecticut,” said Marlene Ibsen, Vice President of Community Relations at Travelers and CEO and President of the Travelers Foundation. “Through its education programs that promote learning with use of art and theater to its concerts and award-winning productions, The Bushnell plays an important role in our community, and we’re proud to support it.”
$100,000 & UP
Farmington Bank
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Photos: Adrianna Hicks and the cast of The Color Purple

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South Windsor High School
Trinity Academy
West Middle School
William J. Johnston Middle School
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CREC Academy of Aerospace and Engineering
CREC Greater Hartford Academy of the Arts Magnet Middle
CREC Metropolitan Learning Center
CREC Public Safety Academy

CREC Two Rivers Magnet Middle School
Jumoke Academy Honors at The Hartford Conservatory
Pathways Academy of Technology and Design
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Burns Latino Studies Academy
Capital Preparatory Magnet School
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Dr. James H. Naylor/CCSU Leadership Academy
Dr. Michael D. Fox Elementary School
E. B. Kennelly School
Environmental Sciences Magnet School at Mary Hooker
McDonough Middle School
Montessori Magnet at Moylan Museum Academy at Wish
Noah Webster MicroSociety Magnet School
R. J. Kinsella Magnet School of Performing Arts
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Photos (top to bottom): Josh Grisetti and Rob McClure in Something Rotten; Deborah Cox in The Bodyguard; the cast of On Your Feet!
On November 16, 2017, former First Lady Michelle Obama discussed her life and career in front of a sold-out crowd in Mortensen Hall. This moderated conversation was co-presented by The Bushnell and The Connecticut Forum.